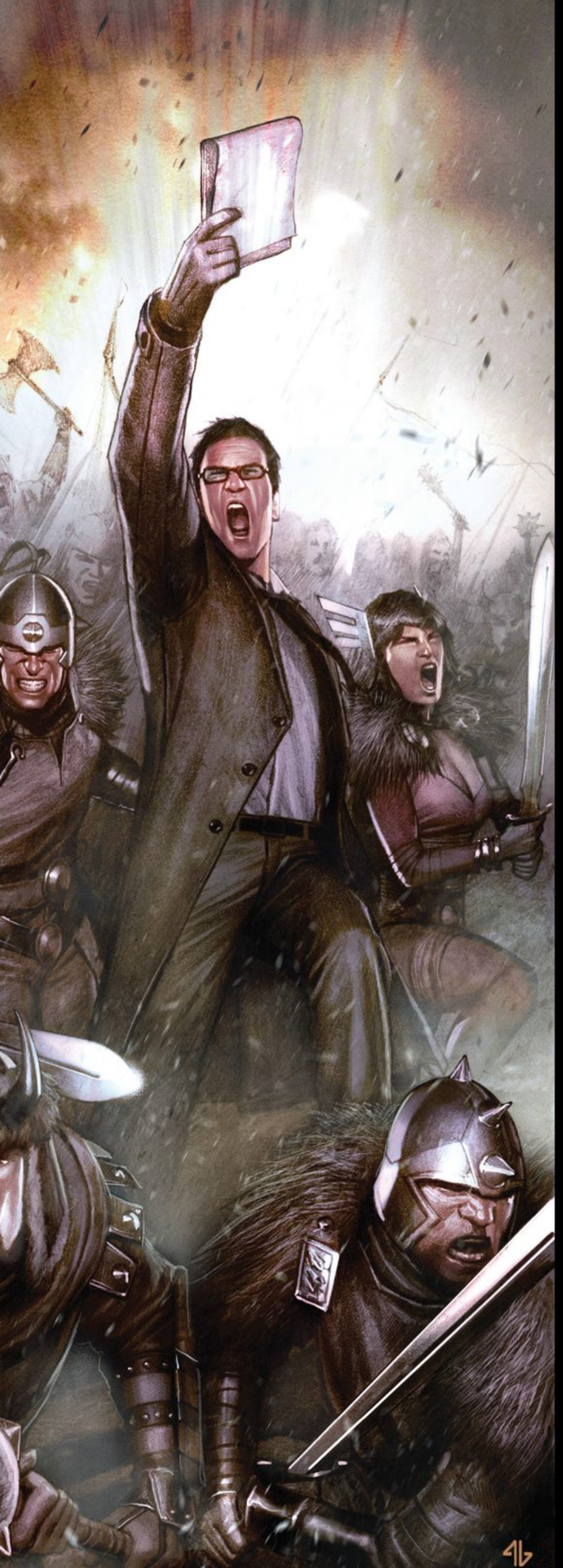
SIEGE™

EMBEDDED

REED • SAMNEE



"Siege: Embedded is a gorgeous looking book, and one that supplements the Event Book it corresponds to instead of just riding its coattails with the appropriate trade dress."
— Benjamin Birdie, ComicBookResources.com

IN A 24-HOUR NEWS CYCLE, WHO OWNS THE TRUTH?

Is it Norman Osborn, who is sending a massive army of H.A.M.M.E.R. agents and assorted super bad guys to crush Asgard? Is it Todd Keller, the frenzied and frenetic mouthpiece from cable news Osborn has handpicked to deliver his message? Or is it the one man on the front lines — Ben Urich — who is willing to reveal the harsh realities of death and destruction doled out in the name of national security, even if it means his own death?

One way or another, some version of the truth will be told!

Collecting ***Siege: Embedded #1-4***, written by Brian Reed ***(Ms. Marvel, Secret Invasion: Front Line)*** and illustrated by Chris Samnee ***(Thor: The Mighty Avenger)***.

T+

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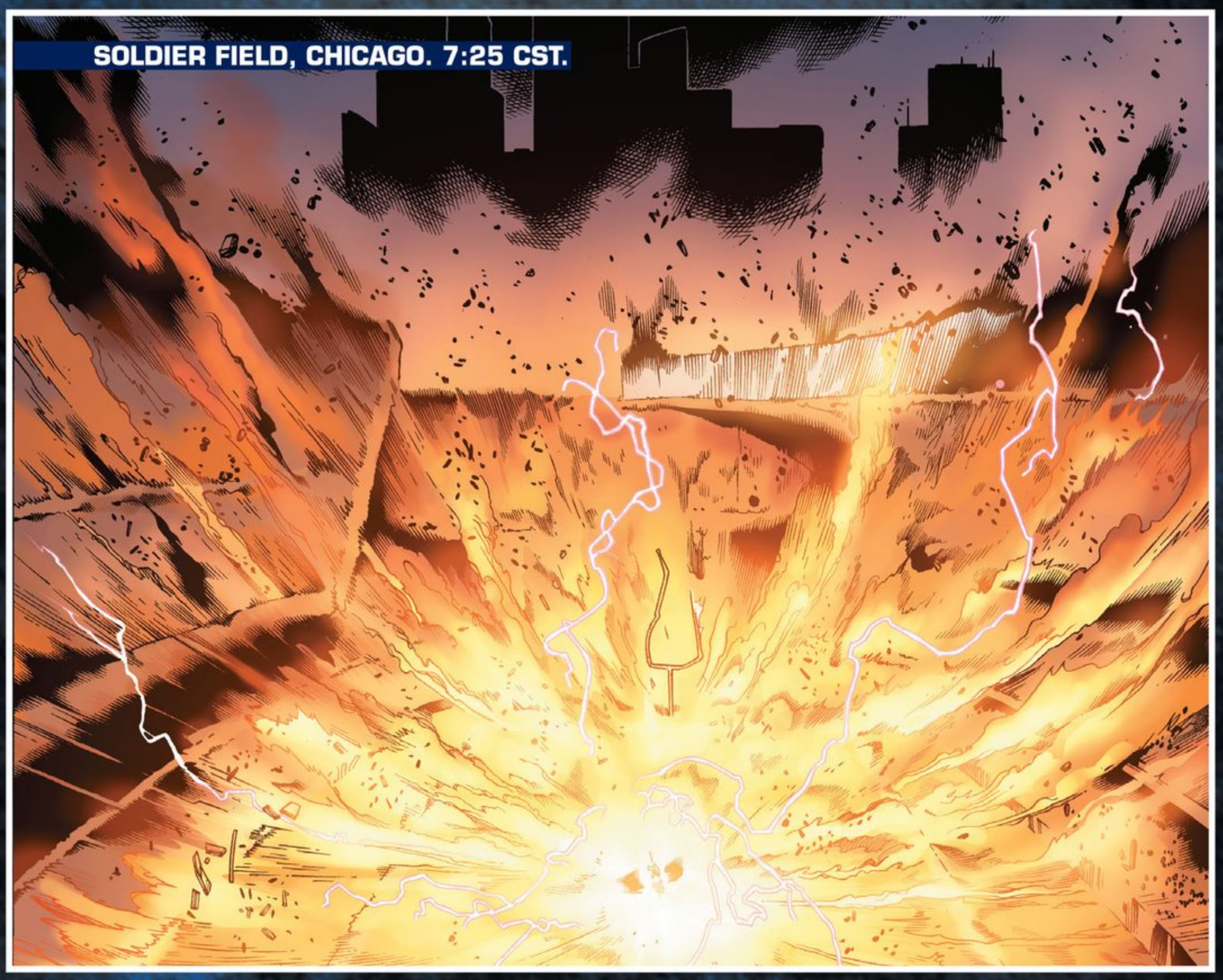
SIEGE EMBEDDED



READ *SIEGE* #1 (ON SALE NOW) FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

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SO HERE'S THE DEAL, AMERICA.

WE HAVE BEEN INVADED AGAIN.

THIS GREAT NATION...FIRST WE WERE ATTACKED BY ALIENS, AND WHO CAME TO OUR DEFENSE?

PATRIOT NEWS NETWORK

YOU'RE WATCHING TODD KELLER: AMERICA'S LAST HONEST MAN

NOT OUR PRESIDENT.

NOT OUR CONGRESS.

NOT THE MAINSTREAM MEDIA WHO WOULD HAVE US BELIEVE THEY HAVE OUR BEST INTERESTS AT HEART.

PATRIOT NEWS NETWORK

WE COULDN'T EVEN COUNT ON THE SO-CALLED SUPER HEROES...

NONE OF THEM HAD OUR BACKS WHEN WE NEEDED THEM MOST.

LIVE FREE OR DIE

YOU'RE WATCHING TODD KELLER: AMERICA'S LAST HONEST MAN

IT BREAKS MY HEART TO TELL YOU THAT ONCE AGAIN AMERICA IS COPING WITH AN INVASION.

BUT THIS ISN'T ALIEN SPACESHIPS IN THE SKY. THIS IS WORSE.

THIS IS AN INVASION WELCOMED BY OUR PRESIDENT, OUR CONGRESS...

AN INVASION OF BROXTON, OKLAHOMA.

AN INVASION OF AMERICA ITSELF BY FORCES FROM... WELL...THEY CALL THEMSELVES GODS, BUT...COME ON.

COME ON!

LOOK AT THIS ONE. THE SO-CALLED GOD RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATHS OF THOUSANDS IN CHICAGO TODAY.

CALLS HIMSELF *VOLSTAGG.*

I GUESS THAT'S GOD-SPEAK FOR **WALKING HEART ATTACK.**

WHO WILL AVENGE THE PEOPLE OF CHICAGO? OUR PRESIDENT? OUR CONGRESS? OF COURSE NOT.

WE CAN LOOK TO ONLY ONE MAN TONIGHT.

FOLKS, I KNOW YOU KNOW THE NAME NORMAN OSBORN, AND I KNOW YOU ***RESPECT*** AND ***ADMIRE*** HIM JUST AS MUCH AS I DO.

THIS IS ***ME*** TALKING TO YOU FROM THE VERY DEEP DOWN BOTTOM OF MY HEART HERE...

NORMAN OSBORN IS THE ONLY HOPE THIS COUNTRY HAS GOT.

WE'LL BE BACK AFTER THESE WORDS.

AND...WE'RE IN COMMERCIAL.

HUNDRED AND TWENTY SECONDS, MISTER KELLER.

TODD? SOMEONE HERE TO SEE YOU?

COME ON!
I'M DOING A SHOW HERE!
I HAVE *NOT* GOT TIME FOR SIGNING AUTOGRAPHS OR--
MISTER KELLER. HELLO.
WHAT IS THIS ALL ABOUT?
I'M *AGENT ABRAMS* WITH *H.A.M.M.E.R.*
DIRECTOR OSBORN IS A *BIG FAN* OF YOURS.
HE LIKES *WHAT* YOU SAY AND *HOW* YOU SAY IT.
THAT'S VERY *FLATTERING.*
BUT THIS IS A *COMMERCIAL BREAK* AND I NEED TO BE PREPARING FOR THE NEXT SEGMENT.
I'M GOING TO CRY ON CAMERA. IT REQUIRES SOME LEVEL OF *PREPARATION.*
I HAVE TO THINK OF SOMETHING SAD, YOU SEE.
OF COURSE. WE CAN SPEAK AFTER YOUR SHOW.
BUT I WANTED YOU TO KNOW THAT I WAS HERE...
AND THAT I AM LOOKING TO OFFER YOU A *VERY INTERESTING* OPPORTUNITY.

CHICAGO.

ACTION NEWS!

NEWS

EMERGENCY POLICE 0378

WHAT DID HE DO?

HE'S ON THE LIST.

LIST?

OF PRESS NOT ALLOWED INSIDE.

HUH. YOU BUSTED HIM?

YEAH.

MIND IF I TALK TO HIM FOR A MINUTE? I'M WITH CHANNEL 36.

KNOCK YOURSELF OUT. HE WORKS FOR SOME OUTFIT CALLED ***FRONT LINE*** OUT OF NEW YORK.

NEVER HEARD OF 'EM, BUT THEY WERE ON THE LIST.

HEY...DIDN'T YOU USED TO BE ***BEN URICH?***

WILL?

WILL STERN?

ITS BEEN A LONG TIME, BENNY BOY.

SAY, YOU WANNA GET OUT OF HERE?

I AM TOTALLY IN THE MOOD FOR A JAIL BREAK.

HAHAHA!

WILL STERN!

I CAN'T BELIEVE MY EYES!

I SAW YOU IN THAT COP CAR AND I THOUGHT "THERE'S NO WAY THAT'S BEN URICH"...BUT THERE YOU ARE!

I'D ASK YOU WHAT YOU'RE DOING IN MY TOWN, BUT--

I'M GONNA GUESS IT'S ALL THE DEATH AND DESTRUCTION.

WILLIAM STERN. WOW.

I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE...

LISTEN, NEW YORK.

I KNOW WE NEED TO DO THE WEATHER, BUT I'M GONNA HAVE TO ASK YOU TO HOLD ON BEFORE WE DO THAT. I NEED TO TAKE MYSELF A LEAK.

AHHHHH. YES.

THAT'S BETTER. NOW THEN, FOR THE WEATHER...

AH, THE GLORY DAYS OF BEING A NEWS ANCHOR IN NEW YORK CITY.

JUST A LOWLY CAMERAMAN NOW.

LUCKY TO FIND WORK AT ALL AFTER MY FRIEND JOHNNIE WALKER TOOK OVER THE NEWS BROADCAST.

SO...YOU SEEN SOLDIER FIELD YET?

I GUESS THE NAME *"GROUND ZERO"* IS TAKEN. BUT YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.

NO, NOT YET.

COME ON, I'LL GET YOU DOWN THERE. ONLY A FEW BLOCKS.

YOU CAN TELL ME ABOUT YOUR LIFE OF CRIME AS WE GO.

I CAUGHT A FLIGHT INTO MILWAUKEE LESS THAN AN HOUR AFTER CHICAGO HAPPENED.

DROVE DOWN HERE AS FAST AS I COULD.

THEN ONE OF CHICAGO'S FINEST PUT ME IN THE BACK OF HIS CAR.

SAID THEY HAD A LIST OF WHICH PRESS WAS ALLOWED INTO THE SITE.

GO AMERICA. GO FREEDOM OF THE PRESS.

THERE IT IS.

OH MY...

GOOD LORD...IT'S STAMFORD ALL OVER AGAIN.

I'D SEEN AN AERIAL VIEW ON TV AS I RACED THROUGH THE AIRPORT.

I'D HEARD ABOUT IT ON THE RADIO AS I DROVE DOWN FROM MILWAUKEE...

BUT I HAD NO IDEA WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE TO SEE THE PLACE IN PERSON.

COME ON. WE NEED TO GET OUT OF--

DEET

WHAT'S THAT?

MY PHONE. I THOUGHT IT WAS OFF.

GOOD THING THE POLICE OFFICER WAS TOO BUSY TO TAKE IT FROM ME.

Are you alive? You ran out of the office faster than Peter Parker does.

TEXT MESSAGE FROM SALLY.

SALLY?

ITS BEEN A COUPLE YEARS SINCE I SAW YOU LAST, BUT I THOUGHT YOUR WIFE'S NAME WAS *DORIS?*

SALLY IS A *CO-WORKER.*

AH. SO'S HOW'S DORIS THEN?

DORIS...

DORIS DIED DURING THE SKRULL INVASION.

CANCER.

OH HELL, BEN. I'M SORRY.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. YOU COULDN'T HAVE KNOWN.

I'm fine.

POWERING OFF...

IS THERE SOMEWHERE TO EAT AROUND HERE? I HAVEN'T HAD A BITE SINCE BREAKFAST.

PATRIOT NEWS NETWORK

FILM STAR BOBBY CARR TOURS DISASTER AREA

WHO CARES IF SOME ACTOR WAS THERE? WHY DOES THAT MATTER TO ANYONE?

WHEN DID THE WORLD CHANGE, BEN?

THE WORLD DIDN'T CHANGE.

YOU JUST STARTED NOTICING HOW AWFUL IT CAN BE.

HEH. YOU CYNICAL SON OF A BITCH.

IT'S NOT CYNICISM.

IT'S PATTERN RECOGNITION.

HAH!

AND THAT TODD KELLER JERK--

NORMALLY I'D SAY THAT ALL YOU'VE DONE SINCE WE SAT DOWN IS COMPLAIN ABOUT EVERYTHING.

BUT, YEAH...

THAT GUY'S A PIECE OF WORK.

I KNOW! RIGHT?

HE'S BEEN AN OSBORN CHEERLEADER SINCE DAY ONE.

AND NOW THAT OSBORN'S MAKING NOISES ABOUT INVADING ASGARD--

WAIT. WHAT?

WHEN DID THAT START?

OH, YEAH. THAT WAS PROBABLY WHILE YOU WERE IN POLICE CUSTODY, HUH?

IS THAT...?

WHAT?

WILL... GET YOUR CAMERA.

WHAT? WHY?

JUST GET YOUR DAMN CAMERA AND COME HERE!

WHAT DO YOU SEE?

VOLSTAGG.

EH?

VOLSTAGG?

AYE.

WILL. CAMERA.

OH! RIGHT!

VOLSTAGG, I'M BEN URICH. I--

HAVE I THE PLEASURE OF YOUR ACQUAINTANCE PREVIOUSLY?

NO, I DON'T BELIEVE WE'VE EVER MET.

PARDON MY DISTRACTION, SIR URICH.

YOUR COMPANION'S FOODSTUFF HAS THE MOST FANTASTIC SCENT, AND MY STOMACH RUMBLES.

SNIFFF

OH, SWEET AMBROSIA...

SMELL THIS! BY WHAT NAME IS THIS STRANGE DELICACY KNOWN?

THE DOUBLE DITKA BURGER.

AND I WOULD HAPPILY BUY YOU ONE IF YOU'D LIKE TO ANSWER SOME QUESTIONS.

SIR URICH!

I ACCEPT YOUR MOST GENEROUS OFFER!

H.A.M.M.E.R. HELICARRIER.

SO WHAT DO YOU THINK, MR. KELLER?

OH MY...

IT'S SOMETHING ELSE, ISN'T IT?

YOU ALMOST SOUND *IMPRESSED*, AGENT ABRAMS.

AND YOU'RE NOT?

A *GOD* DID BATTLE DOWN THERE LAST NIGHT...AND HE LOST.

THESE MONSTERS CAN, AND WILL, BE BEATEN, MISTER KELLER.

AND *YOU* ARE GOING TO BE THE MAN TO *TELL AMERICA* HOW NORMAN OSBORN *MADE IT HAPPEN.*

NOT EVEN IN VALHALLA DO MEN EAT AS WELL AS THIS!

I WILL TELL MY BROTHERS OF YOUR ALCHEMY--THE CHOCOLATE MALTED MILK--AND THEY WILL CALL ME A LIAR!

WELL, THIS HAS BEEN FUN AND ALL...

...BUT NOW THAT WE'VE CHATTED UP VOLSTAGG HERE... WHAT NOW?

NOW I TRY TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO USE VOLSTAGG'S STORY AGAINST OSBORN. HE WAS ATTACKED, WILL. YOU KNOW OSBORN WAS BEHIND IT AS WELL AS I DO.

HE'S GONNA GET AWAY WITH IT.

YOU KNOW THAT, RIGHT?

=SIGH=

I TRIED TO STOP HIM ONCE.

"I STOOD UP IN FRONT OF HIM, AND IN FRONT OF ALL THE PRESS THAT WAS PATTING HIM ON THE BACK...

"AND I TRIED TO SHUT HIM DOWN THEN AND THERE."

I ASSUME THAT DID NOT PAN OUT.

NO...

IT DID NOT.

VOLSTAGG? WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

THE DAYLIGHT BECKONS MY TRAVELS BEGIN, SIR URICH, FOR I HAVE MANY MILES TO WALK THIS DAY.

OUR INTERVIEW--

MUST CONTINUE ANOTHER TIME. UNLESS YOU WISH TO TRAVEL AS MY COMPANIONS?

TRAVEL? WHERE?

SOUTHWARD TO HOME.

ASGARD'S HOME, RATHER. BROXTON OF OKLAHOMA.

THERE I WILL SURRENDER MYSELF TO THE AUTHORITIES OF THE JUSTICE OF ASGARD.

SURRENDER--

FOR THERE THE JUDGEMENT OF THE GODS AWAITS.

JUDGEMENT--

MY ADVENTURES IN THE LAND OF MEN HAVE HAD MOST GRAVE CONSEQUENCES.

I MUST DO WHAT IS RIGHT. ADMIT MY CRIMES. ACCEPT MY PUNISHMENT.

SEEMS 'TIS THE NOBLEST COURSE OF ACTION, NO?

THESE ARE YOUR PEOPLE, YES, SIR ULRICH AND KNAVE WILLIAM?

KNAVE? I'M OLDER THAN--

YES, AND WE NEED TO GET OUT OF SIGHT BEFORE THEY SPOT US.

MILITARY. NEWS VANS. ALL HEADING TO THE AIRPORT...

I CAME HERE TO WRITE A FIRSTHAND ACCOUNT OF CHICAGO, AND OF WHAT WAS HAPPENING HERE.

BUT *HERE* ISN'T THE STORY, IS IT?

BEN, IF THE STORY AIN'T HERE, THEN WHERE IS IT?

ASGARD.

WHAT OF IT?

NORMAN OSBORN IS GOING TO INVADE ASGARD.

BAH. NO MORTAL WOULD STAND A CHANCE.

OSBORN'S BEEN TALKING A LOT OF CRAP, SURE, BUT I DON'T SEE HOW THAT TIES INTO A BUNCH OF NEWS VANS DRIVING TO THE AIRPORT--

EMBEDDED JOURNALISTS.

OSBORN'S ***STACKING THE DECK.***

SENDING PEOPLE WHO WILL ***MAKE LOVE*** TO HIM ON THE AIR.

OKLAHOMA, WILL.

THE STORY IS IN ***OKLAHOMA.***

OKLAHOMA.

WE SHOULD GO.

WE?

YOU'RE LASSOING ME INTO THIS?

YOU'VE GOT ACCESS TO A VAN.

I, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAVE LOST MY RENTAL CAR SOMEWHERE IN DOWNTOWN CHICAGO.

THIS IS GRAND THEFT AUTO, YOU KNOW.

I WON'T FORCE YOU TO DO SOMETHING YOU AREN'T COMFORT--

BEN, I HAVE A %$@# JOB AT A %$@# TV STATION.

I WOULD HELP YOU HIJACK A JUMBO JET IF IT WOULD STOP NORMAN OSBORN.

I'M JUST MENTIONING THE ***MASSIVE CRIME*** WE ARE COMMITTING BECAUSE I AM ***ASSUMING*** IT WILL PRECLUDE ME FROM GETTING ***REIMBURSED*** FOR ***GAS MONEY.***

OH? WELL, I'VE GOT TWENTY DOLLARS I'LL PITCH IN.

SOUNDS GOOD!

THERE HE IS.

STANDS OUT IN A CROWD, DOESN'T HE?

VOLSTAGG?

SIR URICH!

IT TURNS OUT WE'RE GOING TO OKLAHOMA AS WELL.

OH?

WE'RE GONNA GO KICK NORMAN OSBORN'S ASS.

WITH JOURNALISM.

WE WONDERED IF YOU MIGHT LIKE A RIDE...

...AND A CHANCE TO FINISH OUR INTERVIEW?

YOUR CHOICE OF VEHICLE IS... GARISH.

BUT WALKING SO FAR SOUNDS MORE SO.

I WOULD LOVE TO BE YOUR TRAVELING COMPANION!

THEN LET'S GO TO OKLAHOMA.

NEWS

TO BE CONTINUED...

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FROM THE NOTEBOOK OF BEN URICH:

News just came over the wire, thousands dead in Chicago - the Asgardian gods are to "blame." This is too big to not have Norman Osborn all over it. Regardless, the truth needs to be told for those who were sacrificed for another of Osborn's twisted schemes.

Thanks to Will Stern I got to "ground zero" without too much trouble. For the first time in a long while, I am without words. I don't even know if I want there to be words for this. People thought things couldn't get worse after Stamford, but this...I need to know what really happened.

With a little luck Will and I managed to find the Asgardian "held responsible" for the tragedy, Volstagg himself. As I thought, he seems to be just an innocent victim in all this. Why were so-called government-sanctioned "heroes" attacking an Asgardian in the first place?

As we leave for Oklahoma with a god in tow, the countless pillars of smoke have stained the skyline. My only regret is that my story will not change what has happened here today...

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SULLIVAN, MISSOURI.

THEY AIN'T SUPPOSED TO BE THERE!

AND NOW THEY ARE AND LOOK WHAT HAPPENED!

THEY BLEW UP CHICAGO!

SO YOU AGREE THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD TAKE ACTION AGAINST THE CITIZENS OF ASGARD?

HELL YES! WE OUGHTA NUKE 'EM RIGHT OUTTA THERE! JUST VAPORIZE THE WHOLE LOT OF 'EM!

BUT WE AIN'T GONNA, AND YOU KNOW WHY?

BECAUSE A NUCLEAR ATTACK ON AMERICAN SOIL WOULD BE *UNCONSCIONABLE?*

BECAUSE THE PRESIDENT OF THESE UNITED STATES--

--A MAN I DID NOT VOTE FOR, MIND YOU, SO I DON'T KNOW WHY HE GETS ANY SAY OVER ME AND MINE--

--DOES NOT HAVE THE GUTS TO STAND UP FOR HIS PEOPLE!

MISTER WILLIAM? I WANT TO STRETCH MY LEGS.

VOLSTAGG, YOU CAN'T BE GETTING OUT OF THE VAN WHEN WE STOP FOR GAS.

SOMEONE WILL SEE YOU.

I HUNGER.

YOU ATE HALF A COW LESS THAN AN HOUR AGO.

I AM BORED.

TELL YOU WHAT--I'LL GO INSIDE AND GET YOU A MAGAZINE AND SOME PORK RINDS.

HOW'S THAT SOUND?

FANTASTIC!

THAT FELLA RIGHT THERE'S OUR ONLY HOPE.

WHO? WILL?

NO! HIM! ON THE TV!

OH.

THIS IS **ME** TALKING TO YOU FROM THE VERY DEEP DOWN BOTTOM OF MY HEART HERE...

NORMAN OSBORN IS THE ONLY HOPE THIS COUNTRY HAS GOT.

WHY DO YOU EVEN TRY, BEN?
WHAT'S THAT?
EVERY TIME WE STOP AT A GAS STATION--
I WAS *INTERVIEWING* HER. THAT IS OSTENSIBLY WHAT THIS TRIP IS ABOUT--
YOU WEREN'T INTERVIEWING ANYBODY.
YOU WERE PRESSING THE *PLAY BUTTON* ON TODD KELLER *SOUND BITES.*
OH, PLEASE.
SHE WAS REGURGITATING WHAT SHE HEARD KELLER SAY!
WHO IS THIS *TODD KELLER?*
I'M NOT SURE HOW TO EXPLAIN IT.
YOU'VE GOT *MONSTERS* YOU WORRY ABOUT IN ASGARD?
CERTAINLY.
IN THE PAST, THE *FIRE GIANTS* HAVE BEEN A PROBLEM FROM TIME TO TIME.
TODD KELLER IS A FIRE GIANT, YEAH?
BUT INSTEAD OF *FIRE,* HE USES *LIES* AND *HALF-TRUTHS* AND HE GETS PEOPLE ALL RILED UP.

FOR WHAT REASON?

BECAUSE HE'S AN ASS--

BECAUSE IT GETS PEOPLE WATCHING. AND TALKING ABOUT HIM. AND BUYING HIS BOOKS.

CONTROVERSY CREATES AN AUDIENCE.

A FIRE GIANT IS BEST DEALT WITH BY CHOPPING OFF ITS HEAD.

IS THAT A FACT?

ITS HEART LIES IN ITS HEAD, AND FROM THE HEART COMES FIRE.

IT IS THE SAME WITH MEN.

YOU MIGHT NEED A REFRESHER COURSE ON HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY.

NO, NOT THE PHYSICAL *LOCATION* OF THE HEART...BUT THE FIRE.

THE FIRE IN *YOU* COMES FROM YOUR *HEART*.

THE FIRE THAT CARRIES YOU INTO BATTLE IS THE FIRE THAT MAKES YOU A WARRIOR!

OKLAHOMA CITY.

THIS IS THE TODD KELLER SHOW AND WE ARE COMING TO YOU LIVE AND DIRECT FROM THE AIRFIELD AT TINKER AIR FORCE BASE!

WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE, YOU ASK?

WELL, WE HAVE BEEN INVITED HERE TO DOCUMENT THIS ABSOLUTELY HISTORIC EVENT.

A H.A.M.M.E.R. TASK FORCE IS BEING ASSEMBLED TO DO WHAT THE PRESIDENT OF THESE UNITED STATES WILL NOT--

AVENGE THE DEATHS OF THOUSANDS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS AT THE HANDS OF AN ASGARDIAN.

H.A.M.M.E.R. IS A PEACE-KEEPING ORGANIZATION WITH A ***NATIONAL*** MANDATE, WHICH GRANTS THEM ACCESS TO ALL UNITED STATES MILITARY FACILITIES.

EXCUSE ME, MISTER KELLER...

I HATE TO INTERRUPT.

I--OH, WOW. NO APOLOGIES NECESSARY!

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE A TOTALLY UNEXPECTED VISITOR TO OUR SET--

H.A.M.M.E.R. DIRECTOR NORMAN OSBORN--*THE IRON PATRIOT!*

SIR, IT IS AN HONOR AND AN ABSOLUTE PLEASURE TO HAVE YOU ON MY SET. DO YOU HAVE TIME FOR A FEW QUESTIONS--

OF COURSE, MISTER KELLER. BUT WE MUST BE QUICK.

I HAVE A LOT OF THINGS ON MY PLATE TODAY, AS YOU CAN IMAGINE.

SO, SIR, WHAT IS THE NEXT STEP? WHERE DOES AMERICA, AND SPECIFICALLY--***YOU***--GO FROM HERE?

I CANNOT GET INTO THE DETAILS, AS I'M SURE YOU UNDERSTAND.

OF COURSE.

BUT I CAN TELL YOU THIS: THE INCIDENT IN CHICAGO WILL NOT GO UNANSWERED.

IS THAT A GUARANTEE, SIR?

INDEED IT IS.

I'M BEING TOLD WE HAVE TO GO TO BREAK. WE'LL BE BACK IN JUST A MOMENT.

AND WE'RE IN COMMERCIAL. THREE MINUTES, EVERYONE. THREE MINUTES.

TODD? WHAT'S THE MATTER? WE DIDN'T HAVE TO--

WHO THE **** IS IN THAT SUIT?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

DON'T **** WITH ME, AGENT ABRAMS!

THAT IS NOT NORMAN OSBORN AND YOU KNOW IT!

I AM NOT A FOOL, AGENT ABRAMS. DO NOT ATTEMPT TO TREAT ME AS SUCH.

FAIR ENOUGH.

HAVE A LOOK.

OSBORN NEVER MISSES A CHANCE TO PRY OFF HIS HELMET AND SMILE FOR THE CAMERAS.

MISTER KELLER--

IF IT HELPS, HE DOES THINK HE IS NORMAN OSBORN...

EVEN IF HE DOESN'T HAVE A HUMAN FACE.

WHY?

"WHY?" MISTER KELLER, YOU ARE HERE FOR PRECISELY WHAT JUST HAPPENED.

NORMAN OSBORN JUST MADE AN APPEARANCE ON YOUR SHOW AND NOBODY ELSE'S.

NOW ALL OF AMERICA IS WATCHING YOU.

EVEN THE COMPETING NEWS ORGANIZATIONS ARE NOW GETTING THEIR NEWS FROM TODD KELLER.

AND THAT'S PRETTY GREAT, NO?

COME. WALK WITH ME.

EACH SHIP HAS AN OSBORN-APPROVED MEMBER OF THE PRESS ASSIGNED TO IT.

EMBEDDED JOURNALISTS.

WE'RE ENSURING CROSS-NETWORK SATURATION.

EVEN IF SOMEONE DISAGREES WITH YOUR NETWORK'S STYLE, THEY ARE STILL SEEING THE ASGARD EVENT AS WE INTEND IT TO BE SEEN.

THIS IS REALLY HAPPENING, ISN'T IT?

WE'RE GOING TO INVADE ASGARD.

WE ARE GOING TO INVADE ASGARD, MISTER KELLER.

YOU ARE GOING TO TELL THE WORLD WHY IT'S A GOOD IDEA.

CHANDLER, OKLAHOMA.

THIS MAGAZINE IS MOST FASCINATING.

I *THOUGHT* HE'D STOPPED SNORING.

WHAT DID YOU BUY HIM, ANYWAY?

AMERICAN WOMAN

BAG OF PORK RINDS, AND A COPY OF *AMERICAN WOMAN.*

WHY WOULD YOU BUY AN ASGARDIAN WARRIOR A FASHION MAGAZINE?

I FIGURED IT WOULD TAKE HIS MIND OFF HIS TROUBLES.

SEEMS TO HAVE WORKED. WHEN HE'S NOT SNORING HE'S READING FASHION TIPS--

WHOA.

WHAT IN THE WORLD--?

ROAD BLOCK.

GENTLEMEN! I AM OUT OF PORK RINDS.

VOLSTAGG, NOT RIGHT NOW--

ALSO, THERE ARE QUESTIONS HERE, MY OWN ANSWERS TO WHICH I FIND FASCINATING.

THEY CONCERN YOUR FEELINGS REGARDING OBSERVING YOURSELF DISROBED IN THE MIRROR.

MY OWN THOUGHTS ON THE SUBJECT WERE MOST--

OKAY. I WANT TO STOP IMAGINING THAT RIGHT NOW.

THIS RADIO DOESN'T WORK.

YOU EXPECTED IT TO? ON MY TV STATION'S BUDGET?

I WANT TO SEE WHAT'S GOING ON.

WE'RE SITTING IN A LINE OF CARS THREE MILLION MILES LONG IS WHAT'S HAPPENING.

I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.

HEY! WHERE YOU OFF TO?

I'M BEN URICH. I'M A REPORTER OUT OF NEW YORK CITY.

I WAS WALKING UP THIS WAY TO SEE IF I COULD FIND OUT WHAT WAS GOING ON.

RADIO JUST SAYS THERE'S A CHECKPOINT INTO OKLAHOMA CITY AND NOT TO WORRY.

OKLAHOMA CITY? THAT'S FIFTY MILES--

OH MY!

THEY SEEM TO HAVE SOMEWHERE IMPORTANT TO BE.

UH-OH.

AFFIRMATIVE!

ASGARDIAN READINGS CONFIRMED. TARGET IDENTIFIED!

SURROUND THE VAN! WE'RE BRINGING THIS PSYCHO IN!

OH **** OH **** OH ****

WHAT IS HAPPENING?

TROUBLE.

PLACE THE VEHICLE IN PARK, TURN OFF THE ENGINE, AND STEP OUT RIGHT NOW!

VOLSTAGG, BUDDY, I THINK THEY KNOW YOU'RE HERE.

HRMM...THERE ARE RATHER A LOT OF THEM.

LOOK, I KNOW YOU WANTED TO TURN YOURSELF OVER TO THE AUTHORITIES, BUT YOU CAN'T SURRENDER TO THESE GOONS.

MY REDEMPTION BEGINS WITH SURRENDERING TO THE BROXTON, OKLAHOMA POLICE.

THESE MEN ARE NOT LAW ENFORCEMENT, THESE ARE NORMAN OSBORN'S PAWNS.

NO, WILLIAM...

THESE MEN ARE STRESS RELIEF.

Haaaaa!

OH, SON OF A--HEY! COME BACK!

VRRP

VOLSTAGG?!

BEN! LET'S GO!

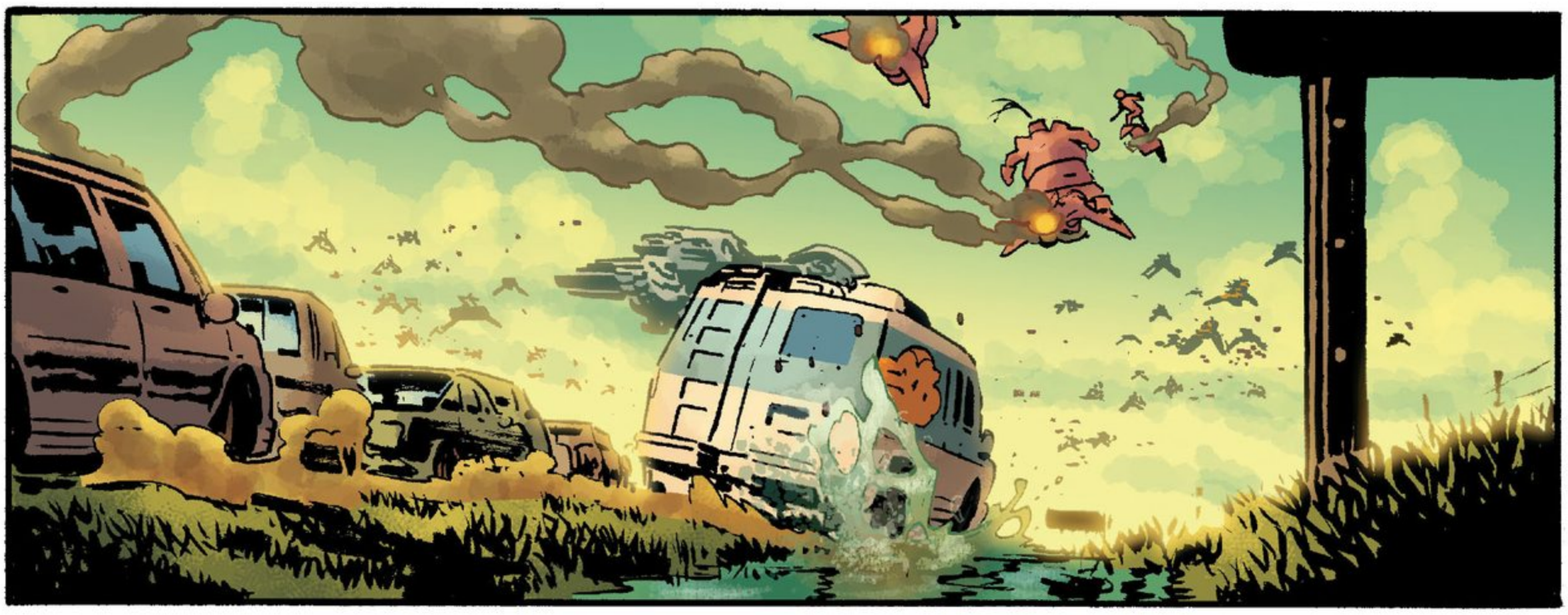
WILL?! VOLSTAGG JUST FLEW BY WITH HALF OF H.A.M.M.E.R.--

DO YOU POSSIBLY THINK THERE IS ANY CHANCE IN ALL OF CREATION THAT I DO NOT KNOW THAT?!

NEWS
WHAT'S THE PLAN?
I WAS HOPING YOU HAD ONE, ACTUALLY.

MY PLAN WAS TO GO THROUGH THE CARS, TALK TO PEOPLE, FIND OUT WHAT THEY THOUGHT OF ALL THIS MADNESS.

THAT'S WHY YOU NEVER WORKED IN TELEVISION, BEN.
TALKING HEADS JUST AREN'T ALL THAT EXCITING.



HA-HA! JUSTICE SERVED!

OH, GOOD LORD...HE'S NOT HELPING HIS CASE, IS HE?

OUT OF THE VAN! NOW!

DÉJÀ VU.

HEY! COME ON!

UNNFFF!

GET THEM TO THE BRIG.

TINKER AIR FORCE BASE.

WELL...FUN WHILE IT LASTED.

I'VE GONE MY WHOLE LIFE WITHOUT EVER GETTING ARRESTED.

AND NOW I'M IN CUSTODY TWICE IN LESS THAN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS.

I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BIG GUY?

I WAS REALLY STARTING TO LIKE HAVING HIM AROUND.

CAN'T BE ANY WORSE OFF THAN US.

OH, YOU ARE GOING TO BE A SERIOUSLY MOPEY CELLMATE, AREN'T YOU?

I'M NOT MOPING.

OKAY. LOOK. HOW'S THIS...I'LL FAKE HAVING A SEIZURE AND YOU RUN FOR IT.

AND WHERE WILL I RUN TO?

GOOD LORD, MAN. HAVE YOU COMPLETELY LOST YOUR EDGE?

I HAVEN'T LOST ANYTH--

WE'RE STOPPING.

IT'S SHOWTIME!

THE HELL IS GOING ON?!

WHAT IS THIS? WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
HE'S HAVING A SEIZURE!

HEY. I'M JUST MESS'N WITH YA.
WHAT?!

COME ON!

I'D LIKE TO GET THESE HANDCUFFS OFF!

BUTCH AND SUNDANCE, WE AIN'T.

GOOD. THEY DIED AT THE END.

RIGHT!

I ALWAYS FORGET THAT PART.

TO BE CONTINUED...

SIEGE™

EMBEDDED

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REED
SAMNEE
WILSON

MARVEL® LIMITED SERIES 3 OF 4

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FROM THE NOTEBOOK OF BEN URICH:

I'd never have believed it. Even now I have trouble writing about it. Heck, I'm still having trouble thinking about it. Norman Osborn, our self-sacrificing top-cop, dropped a bunch of "heroes" into Chicago to attack the Asgardian god Volstagg. The result was horrific with thousands dead in the backlash. My old news buddy Will Stern got me to "ground zero" and we stumbled across Volstagg along the way. Together, we embarked on a road trip to Oklahoma, for Volstagg to receive divine judgement, and for us to report on the next phase of Osborn's machinations.

All along the way, I've been interviewing people we've met and they're all saying the same name: Todd Keller. He's got everybody sold that Osborn's way of thinking is the right way of thinking. I wouldn't be surprised if Osborn's feeding him his info; controlling the news...

We hit a H.A.M.M.E.R. roadblock just outside Oklahoma City checking for, no surprise, the well-girthed Asgardian god crammed in our backseat. Volstagg joined the gathered agents in battle and took off into the sky. Will and I, trying to make a break for it, ended up arrested. Once we reached the local Air Force base, Will and I managed to get away on foot. Maybe Volstagg had the right idea...

SIEGE
EMBEDDED

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TINKER AIR FORCE BASE, OKLAHOMA.
I'VE RUN MORE IN THE LAST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS THAN I HAVE IN THE LAST TEN YEARS!
NO REASON TO SLOW DOWN NOW!
STOP THEM!

COME ON! WE CAN LOSE THEM IN BETWEEN THE CRATES.

GOOD IDEA!

BEN! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!

I THINK THIS IS THE WAY THROUGH.

WILL!

ZZAAAATT

AHH!

JUST RUN! WE'LL FIGURE IT OUT IN A MINUTE!

87439
OH, HELL.

FREEZE, ****!

I'M GOING TO HATE MYSELF IF I BREAK MY CAMERA DOING THIS.
WHAT'S THAT?

I SAID--
KRAK
I HOPE YOUR HEAD'S SOFTER THAN IT LOOKS.

HMMM...

THERE ARE CIVILIANS LOADING THAT TRANSPORT... JUST...ACT NATURAL.

COME ON! MOVE IT! AGENT ABRAMS WANTS US IN THE AIR *NOW!*

EXCUSE ME, DO I KNOW YOU?
I--
YOU SEEM SO FAMILIAR, BUT I KNOW YOU'RE NOT PART OF MY CREW.
I'M JUST ANOTHER EMBEDDED REPORTER.
YOU?
I'M TODD KELLER'S PRODUCER.
TODD KELLER. THE TV GUY.
OH, DON'T GET EXCITED.
HE'S AN ASS, AND I HATE HIM. YOU WOULD TOO IF YOU MET HIM.
BUT DON'T.
MEET HIM, I MEAN.
HE THINKS HE'S THE ONLY NEWSMAN ON THE AIRCRAFT AND HE'LL HAVE A BIG BABY FIT IF HE FINDS OUT HE'S NOT.
DULY NOTED.
HEY...WHERE ARE WE HEADED ANYWAY? I SORT OF JUST WENT WHERE THEY TOLD ME TO.
OH! YOU DIDN'T KNOW?
WE'RE GOING INTO THE *WAR ZONE.*

"WE'RE GOING TO ASGARD."

AGENT ABRAMS, I WAS FINE DOING THIS ON THE BASE. I DON'T NEED TO BE THERE IN PERSON.

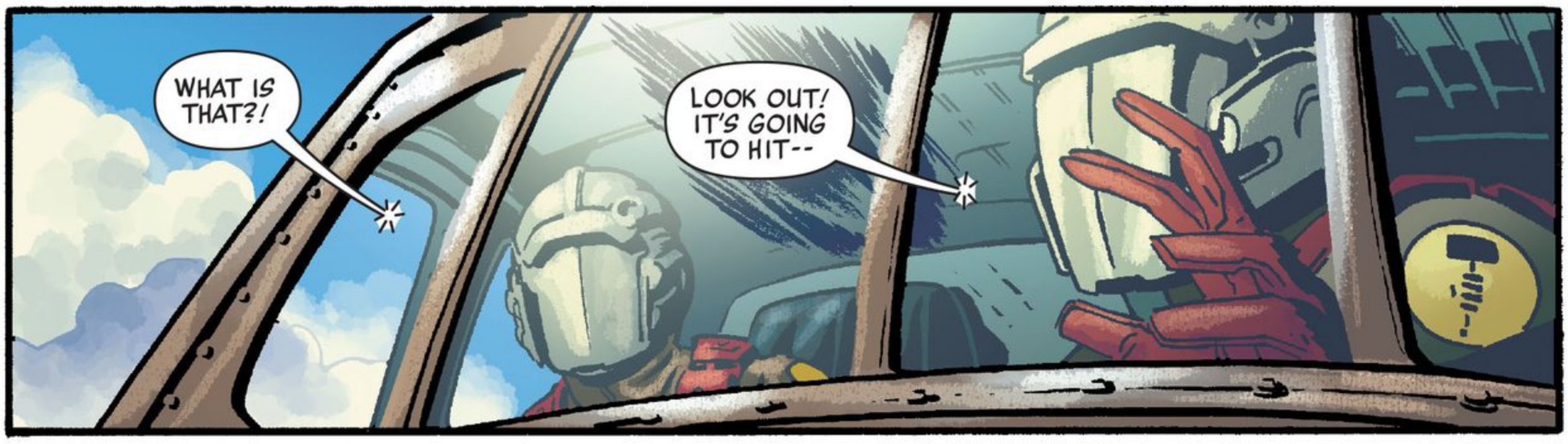
NONSENSE, MISTER KELLER!

DIRECTOR OSBORN WILL LOVE IT! AND IMAGINE THE RATINGS!

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE *LOVE* SPECTACLE!

HAHA-HAHA!

SWEET MERCIFUL--


WHAT IS THAT?!
LOOK OUT! IT'S GOING TO HIT--

OH GOD!
HEY! WATCH WHERE YOU'RE FLYIN'!
AHHHH!

WHAT THE HELL--

OH, NO.

AWW, HELL YEAH! CANNED MEAT!

VENOM! STAND DOWN!

NO.

ZAAP ZAAP ZAAP

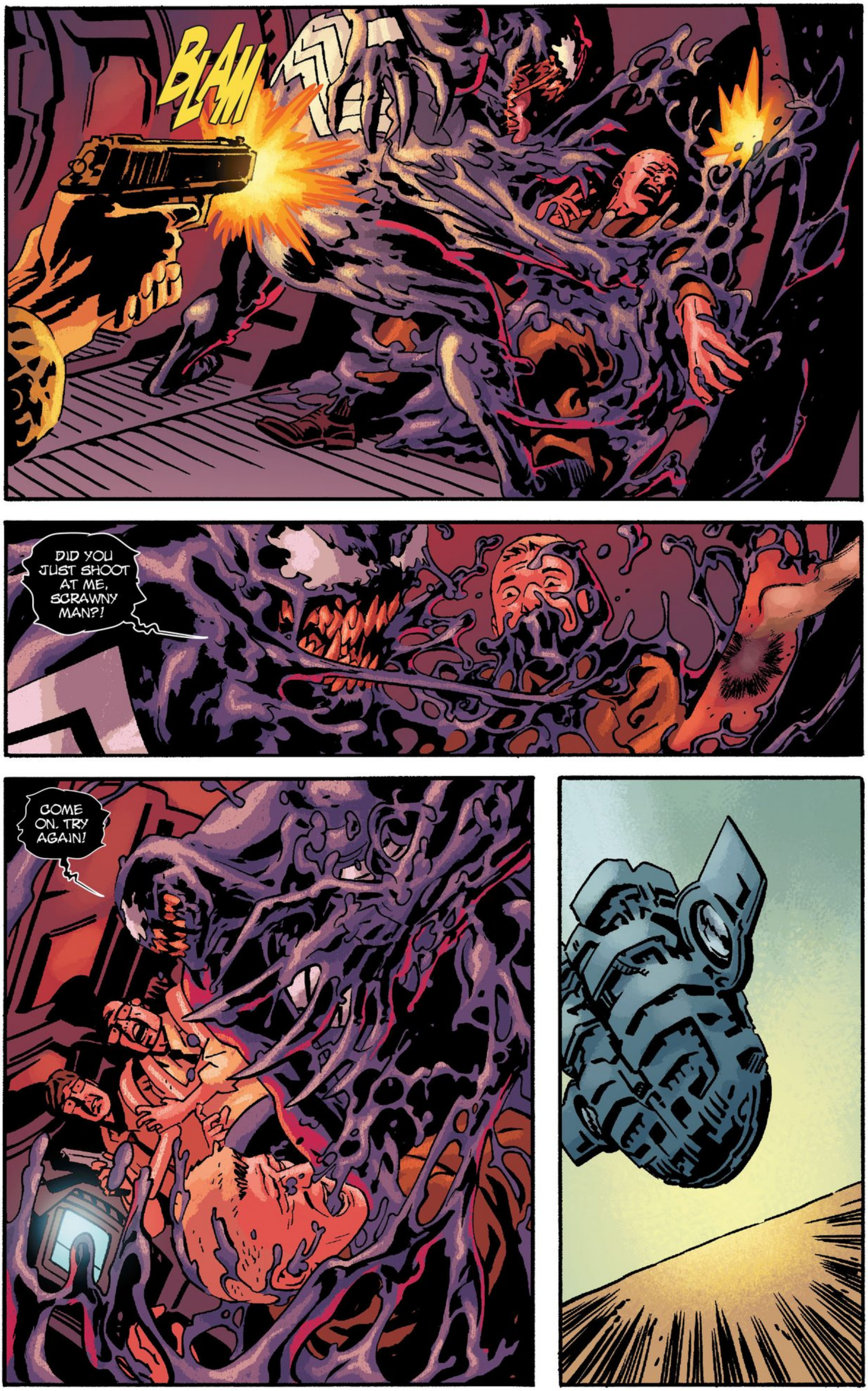
SPLURTCH

WHO'S NEXT?

NO! NO! AHHHH!

COME HERE!

THUMPP


BLAM
DID YOU JUST SHOOT AT ME, SCRAWNY MAN?!
COME ON. TRY AGAIN!

I NEVER MEANT TO TURN OUT LIKE THIS, MR. URICH.

I WANTED TO SHOW THE WORLD THE NEWS, NOT HELP SOME IDIOT BLOWHARD--

MISTER KELLER! YOU'RE ALIVE!

MY... UNNH..

YOU'RE ALIVE! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

JUST A MOMENT, MISTER KELLER. I THINK I CAN LIFT THIS--

WHO THE HELL IS THIS MAN?

THAT'S BEN URICH.

OH... AHHH!

I SUSPECT YOU'VE BROKEN A FEW BONES, MISTER KELLER.

BUT I THINK I CAN FASHION YOU A SLING--

YOU ARE NOT A MEMBER OF MY CREW.

I THINK THIS WILL WORK...

I'M WITH *FRONT LINE*--

I KNOW THAT RAG, YES.

YEAH, THIS IS GOING TO TAKE MORE THAN ONE HOLSTER.

WHAT WERE YOU DOING ON MY SHIP?

MR. URICH WAS--

I DIDN'T ASK *YOU!*

I, UH, I LOST MY NOTEBOOK IN THE CRASH.

BUT I'D LOVE THE CHANCE, ONCE WE'RE OUT OF THIS MADNESS OF COURSE, TO SIT AND TALK WITH YOU.

I'D LIKE TO DISCUSS YOUR UNWAVERING SUPPORT OF NORMAN OSBORN AND HIS--

I HAVE A BETTER IDEA, MISTER URICH.

YOU WILL HELP ME SPREAD THE WORD TO THE WORLD ABOUT NORMAN OSBORN, YES.

WE WILL SHOW THEM ALL THE GOOD HE IS DOING HERE.

MISTER KELLER--

GET ME A CONNECTION TO THE NETWORK!

I DON'T THINK--

BLAM

NOW!

I-I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO WITH WHAT GEAR IS LEFT. IF IT'S EVEN POSSIBLE.

IT DAMN WELL BEST BE POSSIBLE. HOP TO IT.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF AMERICA...

I COME TO YOU FROM THE STREETS OF ASGARD.

LOOK AT THIS ABOMINATION...

THIS WORLD FULL OF SELF-PROCLAIMED GODS WHO WOULD USE GOOD, HARD-WORKING AMERICANS AS THEIR PLAYTHINGS.

THESE ARE THE PEOPLE WHO KILLED THOUSANDS OF AMERICANS IN CHICAGO.

THESE ARE THE PEOPLE WHO DECLARED WAR ON US!

NOW LOOK AT THEM, AMERICA.

LOOK AT THEM, AND WATCH THEM SUFFER AT THE HANDS OF JUSTICE.

WITNESS, AMERICA, THE FALL OF ASGARD!

THE HELL IS THAT?

UP THERE! WHAT IS--

ALL UNITS! DIRECTOR OSBORN HAS ORDERED ALL UNITS TO ASGARD! ALL OTHER DUTIES ARE SECONDARY!

WELL, AS LONG AS EVERYBODY ELSE IS BUSY...

TIME TO MAKE A BREAK FOR IT.

SAW BEN GET ON THAT SHIP AND FLY OFF TOWARDS ASGARD...

MF

...SO IT'S TIME TO GO TO ASGARD!

44

BRONX 65

WHOA.

WHAT IN THE WORLD?

OH MAN, OH MAN, OH--

WHAT THE HELL IS HAPPENING?

FABOOM

BOOM
TO BE CONCLUDED...

SIEGE™

EMBEDDED

REED
SAMNEE
WILSON

MARVEL® 4 LIMITED SERIES OF 4

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FROM THE NOTEBOOK OF BEN URICH:

It's bad enough that I wake up every morning and remember that Norman Osborn is in charge of "protecting" the nation, but even I can't believe how far he has gone now. I'm sure he's behind the group of government-sponsored "heroes" that attacked the Asgardian god Volstagg in Chicago, resulting in thousands of deaths, and now he's used this tragedy as an excuse to launch an attack on Asgard itself.

My old news buddy Will Stern helped me get to Chicago to witness the destruction firsthand, and from there we embarked on a trip to Oklahoma, picking up Volstagg on our way. We hit a H.A.M.M.E.R. roadblock outside Oklahoma City and Volstagg made a run for it, but Will and I ended up in handcuffs.

Will picked the locks on the cuffs and I managed to find my way onto a H.A.M.M.E.R. aircraft heading right into the heart of the conflict - alongside Todd Keller, the conservative news pundit who has been spouting off whatever Osborn says like it's the gospel truth.

SIEGE
EMBEDDED

Our flight hit some turbulence when Venom crashed into our ship and turned it into his own personal all-you-can-eat buffet. Against my better judgment, I kept Venom from devouring Keller as we crashed into the heart of Asgard. As a way of thanking me, Keller held me at gunpoint and forced me to help him broadcast from the wreckage. But the ground began shaking underfoot and the whole city started coming down around us...

WARNING: READ SIEGE #4 BEFORE THIS BOOK!

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ASGARD...

=KOFF=

THANK YOU SO MUCH.

my name is SIF. What is your purpose here, mortal?

I'M BEN URICH, A JOURNALIST WHO--

=KOFF=

MISTER KELLER?

URICH? YOU'RE STILL ALIVE?

I...YEAH. I THINK SO.

ARE YOU OKAY?

WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED HERE?

ASGARD... FELL?

DO YOU HEAR THAT?

ANYONE WHO IS CAPABLE, *PLEASE* HELP GET EVERYONE ELSE FREE!

YES! THAT'S IT! QUICKLY NOW! QUICKLY!

THANK YOU...

I COULD USE YOUR HELP, MISTER KELLER.

THOSE AREN'T PEOPLE, URICH. THOSE ARE *ASGARDIANS.*

THEY LIKE TO CALL THEMSELVES GODS, *REMEMBER?*

LET THEM *GOD* THEIR WAY OUT OF--

YOU SONOFA--

KRAK

UNFF

OW! DAMMIT! OW!

YOU! HOW DARE YOU--

I WILL BE PRESSING CHARGES AS SOON AS THIS IS OVER! YOU DO NOT ASSAULT--

WHAT IS THAT?

OH, MY...

COME ON! WE NEED TO GET THESE PEOPLE OUT OF HERE!

THAT'S GOOD! KEEP IT STEADY!

EVERYONE! THIS WAY!

HURRY! THERE ISN'T MUCH TIME!

MY GOD...

LOOK AT THEM.

THEY CAN'T-- THEY CAN'T BEAT THAT.

NO ONE COULD WIN AGAINST THAT.*

* SEE CAP'S FORCES BATTLE THE VOID IN SIEGE #4 - LS

BROXTON, OKLAHOMA.

TELL ME YOU'RE GETTING THIS!

PLEASE STOP SAYING THAT.

WHERE IS THAT MANIAC GOING?

VREEEE

WILLIAM, BUDDY, THIS IS YOUR BRAIN SPEAKING TO YOU.

EVERYONE ELSE IS RUNNING THE OTHER WAY, WILLIAM.

WHY ARE YOU DRIVING TOWARDS THE CRAZINESS?

YOU'RE GOING TO GET YOURSELF KILLED, PAL.

WHOA! HEY!

SON OF A--

SKRREEE

KROOM

YOU COME ALL THIS WAY JUST TO CRASH?!

YOU STEERED LIKE A DAMN BATTLESHIP ANYWAY! YOU CALL THAT CORNERING?!

SIR WILLIAM? IS THAT YOU?

...VOLSTAGG?

I HAVE NO NOTEPAD. NO RECORDER. NO CAMERA...REMEMBER EVERYTHING YOU'RE SEEING HERE, BEN.

TALK THROUGH IT. GET IT IN YOUR HEAD NOW, WHILE YOU'RE WATCHING IT HAPPEN.

THE AVENGERS ARE BATTLING A CREATURE I'M UNFAMILIAR WITH.

IS IT ASGARDIAN? SOMETHING OSBORN MADE, MAYBE?

I'LL FIND THAT OUT LATER...

I HOPE.

RIGHT NOW, I NEED TO KEEP TRACK OF THE BATTLE.

HANG ON.

ARE THEY... THEY'RE GLOWING, AREN'T THEY?

I AM SO FAR OUT OF MY ELEMENT.

OH MY...

VRRRROOOOOMMMM

HAIL!

BEN! HAHA! YOU'RE ALIVE!

I HAVE SEEN SOME THINGS TODAY I WILL NOT SOON FORGET.

I WAS POSITIVE YOU WERE DEAD. NOT VOLSTAGG THOUGH.

SIR URICH HAS THE SOUL OF A WARRIOR! I KNEW HE WOULD STILL LIVE!

OH NO.

THAT... CAN'T BE GOOD.

MY GOD... THAT'S THE HELICARRIER--

WE NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE...

LET ME GET A SHOT FIRST...

NOW, WILLIAM!

THERE IS NO TIME TO FLEE!

QUICKLY!

IT IS DONE?

YEAH. IT IS DONE.

WHAT... I...

THIS DAY NEEDS TO CALM THE HELL DOWN.

BEN, CATCH YOUR BREATH, BUDDY. WE'RE FINE.

WHERE IS HE GOING?

VOLSTAGG? WHAT IS IT?

IS THAT NORMAN OSBORN?

WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED TO HIS FACE?

BE STILL, MORTAL.

EVERYONE PAYS FOR THEIR SINS THIS DAY.

KTANG

IS HE ALIVE?

AYE. IF I WANTED HIM DEAD, HE WOULD BE.

WELL, THERE YOU GO, BEN.

YOU WANTED OSBORN, AND YOU GOT HIM.

I WANTED HIM CONSCIOUS SO I COULD INTERVIEW HIM.

TELL YOU WHAT--

YOU ASK HIM QUESTIONS, AND I'LL DO HIS VOICE.

HA!

AS MUCH FUN AS IT MIGHT BE... NO.

THE REAL STORY IS OVER THERE, WILLIAM.

"THE WORLD CHANGED IN BROXTON, OKLAHOMA.

"NORMAN OSBORN'S DARK REIGN WAS BROUGHT TO AN END, AND THE HEROES WON THE DAY.

"PERHAPS I AM SENTIMENTAL IN MY OLD AGE, BUT THAT IS HOW THE STORY SHOULD ALWAYS END, ISN'T IT?

"DARKNESS GIVING WAY TO LIGHT, CELEBRATIONS ARE HAD, AND THE WORLD MOVES ON--AT PEACE NOW.

"THE AVENGERS--THE REAL, TRUE, HONEST-TO-GOODNESS AVENGERS--ARE TOGETHER AGAIN, AND I FEEL LIKE A CHILD. I AM SO HAPPY TO SEE THEM ALL STANDING SIDE BY SIDE.

"THE SUPERHUMAN REGISTRATION ACT, WHICH TORE THE HERO COMMUNITY APART AND ALLOWED OSBORN'S RISE TO POWER, HAS BEEN REPEALED.

"TRULY, A NEW HEROIC AGE IS BEGINNING."

I HOPE IT IS FOR THE BEST. THAT THE DARKNESS IS BEHIND US--

AND...THAT'S ALL I'VE GOT, DORIS.

DORIS URICH
- LOVING WIFE

CAN YOU BELIEVE I HAVE WRITER'S BLOCK BECAUSE I'M IN TOO GOOD A MOOD?

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN FOREVER, I FEEL LIKE THERE'S A FUTURE--

--AND MAYBE EVEN A GOOD ONE--

--AHEAD OF US ALL.

THINGS ARE GETTING BETTER, AND I FEEL LIKE I'M GETTING BETTER WITH THEM.

"WILLIAM CAME BACK TO NEW YORK WITH ME.

"OUR TRIP WOKE SOMETHING UP IN HIM, MADE HIM WANT TO DO THE REAL WORK OF JOURNALISM AGAIN.

"HE'S JOINED THE STAFF OF FRONT LINE, AND I'M HAPPY TO HAVE HIM.

"TODD KELLER...WELL, HE'S BACK WHERE HE WAS, AND HE HASN'T MISSED A BEAT.

STEVE ROGERS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. CAPTAIN AMERICA!

HE'S NOT GOING TO TAKE ANY CRAP, AND LET ME TELL YOU WHY...

"I DON'T FOOL MYSELF WITH THOUGHTS THAT HE'S CHANGED. HE HASN'T.

"PEOPLE LIKE TODD KELLER NEED OTHER PEOPLE TO TELL THEM WHAT TO DO.

"HOPEFULLY, STEVE ROGERS WILL BE A BETTER INFLUENCE ON HIM THAN NORMAN OSBORN WAS.

"VOLSTAGG IS HELPING EXCAVATE AND REBUILD SOLDIER FIELD.

"HE WANTS VERY MUCH TO ATONE FOR WHAT HE WAS A PART OF.

"I WOULD NOT MIND SEEING HIM AGAIN ONE DAY."

"AS FOR ME...

"WELL, DORIS, I'M HAPPY TO BE BACK IN MANHATTAN.

"I WISH YOU'D BEEN HERE TO SEE THE WORLD TODAY.

"PEOPLE ARE HAPPY, AND IT'S SUCH A NICE CHANGE OF PACE.

"SOME FOLKS LIKE TO IMAGINE THAT THINGS WILL STAY THIS WAY FOREVER.

"AND WHILE I DON'T WANT TO COME OFF AS CYNICAL--

"I'M TRYING REALLY HARD LATELY TO STOP THAT. YOU'D BE PROUD.

"--I'VE BEEN AROUND LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW THERE'S ALWAYS ANOTHER ADVENTURE WAITING."

"ALWAYS ANOTHER CHANGE WE DON'T SEE COMING, AND ANOTHER CHAPTER OF THE STORY TO BE TOLD.

"I'M EXCITED TO SEE WHAT'S COMING IN THE DAYS AHEAD.

"I THINK WE ALL ARE."

THE END.

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